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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/892,883

Examiner

Timothy L Rude

Applicant(s)

MOON ET AL.

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to after final amendment filed 14 October 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 10-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 28 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

Claims

1. Claim 6, 8, and 9 are canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-5 and 10-20 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As to claim 1, relevant prior art of record did not disclose, alone or in combination, an in-plane switch mode liquid crystal display device as claimed comprising: "a plurality of dummy signal lines parallel to the common voltage lines and adjacent to the common voltage lines for applying alternating current signals".

The reference to applying alternating current signals is considered more than intended use since the claim is drawn to a display device; consequently, the reference to applying alternating current signals is considered a function of the means, "dummy signal lines".

Although prior art exists wherein electrostatic shorting dummy lines are formed in the off-display region, they do not meet the claim means plus function recitations.

The closest combination is Komatsu in view of Zhang et al (Zhang) USPAT 5,956,009 but the combination does not teach all recitations of the claim. References exist that teach the use of dummy lines to electrically isolate signal lines in the display area and to provide testing capabilities or electrostatic protection etc, but there is no motivation to combine references to comprise the specific invention as claimed.

As to claim 10, relevant prior art of record did not disclose, alone or in combination, an in-plane switch mode liquid crystal display device as claimed comprising: "at least one dummy data line, parallel to said data lines, for applying a compensation signal"; wherein the common voltage lines are provided outside the thin film transistor array, and wherein the common voltage lines are spaced a predetermined distance from the thin film transistor array.

The reference to applying a compensation signal is considered more than intended use since the claim is drawn to a display device; consequently, the reference to applying a compensation signal is considered a function of the means, "at least one dummy data line".

Although prior art exists wherein electrostatic shorting dummy lines are formed in the off-display region, they do not meet the claim means plus function recitations.

The closest combination is Komatsu in view of Zhang et al (Zhang) USPAT 5,956,009 but the combination does not teach all recitations of the claim. References exist that teach the use of dummy lines to electrically isolate signal lines and to provide

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testing capabilities or electrostatic protection etc, but there is no motivation to combine references to comprise the specific invention as claimed.

As to claims 2-5 and 11-20, they are directly or indirectly dependent upon claims with allowable subject matter above.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L Rude whose telephone number is (571) 272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

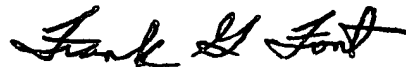
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2883



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800